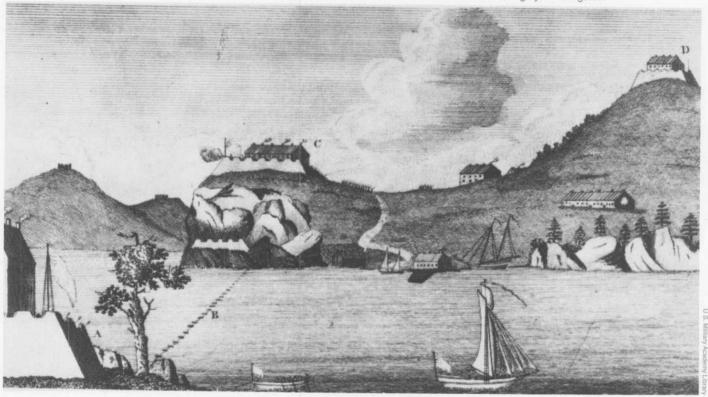


## Office of History, Corps of Engin

## Union with the Artillerists

West Point in 1783. Wood engraving by C. Tiebout from a drawing by H. Livingston.



Likeness of Pierre Charles L'Enfant.



was launched in 1789, Secretary of War Henry Knox recommended "a small corps of well-disciplined and well-informed artillerists and engineers." Nevertheless, no engineers served the Army until March 1794 when war threatened with Britain. At that time Congress authorized President Washington to appoint temporary engineers to direct the fortification of key harbors. Among those named were Pierre L'Enfant and Major Stephen Rochefontaine, another veteran of the Revolutionary War Corps of Engineers.

hen the new government

under the Constitution

The following May, heeding the much earlier advice of Duportail and others, Congress established a single Corps of Artillerists and Engineers consisting of one regiment. Rochefontaine assumed command of the new Corps. At the same time a school to train Army officers took shape at West Point, New York.

As war threatened with France in 1798, Congress added a second regiment of artillerists and engineers. In 1802 Congress reduced the military establishment again and separated the artillerists and engineers. The union, which so many Revolutionary War Engineers had supported, was short-lived. Yet the Corps of Engineers survived the peacetime reduction and took charge of the military academy now established permanently at West Point.

1780 plan for West Point.